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Message Text

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PAGE 01 MASERU 01427 210937Z

20
ACTION AF-07

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 RSC-01 L-02

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-05 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01

SCCT-01 AID-05 /055 W
---------- 004206
R 201050Z DEC 74
FM AMEMBASSY MASERU
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4573
INFO AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY MBABANE
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG
AMCONSUL DURBAN

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CAPETOWN FOR EMBASSY

EO 11652: NA - DECONTROL UPON RECEIPT
TAGS: PINS, LT
SUBJ: LESOTHO TREASON TRIAL

REF: MASERU 1380

1. LESOTHO TREASON TRIAL REACHED END OF FOURTH WEEK DEC. 19 AND HAS BEEN ADJOURNED OVER CHRISTMAS PERIOD UNTIL JAN. 14.

2. NUMBER OF DEFENDANTS NOW REDUCED TO 30. ONE OF ACCUSED RELEASED DEC. 12 AFTER PROSECUTION WITNESSES UNABLE TO IDENTIFY HIM. POLICE HAD MISTAKEN HIM FOR HIS BROTHER. ANOTHER DEFENDANT DIED DECEMBER 15 IN MASERU CENTRAL PRISON. IT WAS ANNOUNCED IN COURT DEC. 19 THAT POST-MORTEM SHOWED HE DIED OF ACUTE HEART FAILURE AND HAD AN ENLARGED HEART. SOURCE SAYS DECEASED, ABOUT AGE 50, HAD COMPLAINED TO FELLOW PRISONERS OF CHEST PAINS FOR WEEK.
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EM IN TWO WEEKS SINCE LAST REPORT (REFTEL), NEITHER SIDE HAS MADE DEMONSTRABLE GAINS. SENSATIONAL ADVANTAGE LIES WITH DEFENSE AS SUCCESSION OF CROWN WITNESSES ON CROSS-EXAMINATION HAVE CONTINUED FLOW OF TESTIMONY ON REPRESSION OF BCP MEMBERS AND THEIR FAMILIES. IT UNDERSTOOD HERE THAT CROWN'S FIRST WITNESS HAS FLED TO BOTSWANA. HE WAS MEMBER OF BCP NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND INTRODUCED BY PROSECUTION AS AN ACCOMPLICE WITNESS. ON THE STAND HE RECANTED IN FULL ALL PREVIOUS STATEMENTS TO POLICE, SAYING HE HAD SAID WHAT THEY WANTED HIM TO SAY BECAUSE HE FEARED FOR HIS LIFE.

4. IN ASKING FOR ADJOURNMENT, SENIOR CROWN COUNSEL SAID HE NOT IN POSITION TO DECLARE WHAT EVIDENCE PROSECUTION EXPECTED TO PRESENT WHEN TRIAL CONTINUES JAN. 14.
HAUGHT

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Concepts: TREASON, TRIALS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 DEC 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: elyme
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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TAGS: PINS, LT, (LESOTHO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
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